

# TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

A. VANS BEST, M.D., F.R.C.S.



TO THE  
MANAGERS OF THE ROYAL INFIRMARY,  
ABERDEEN.

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GENTLEMEN,

*Having ascertained that a vacancy is  
about to occur in the Surgical Staff of the Royal  
Infirmary, I beg again to submit my name as a  
Candidate for the appointment. I forward  
Testimonials, with a short note of some of my  
Surgical practice since retirement from the Pub-  
lic Service, with references; and I am,*

GENTLEMEN,

*Your very obedient Servant,*

A. VANS BEST, M.D., F.R.C.S.

ABERDEEN, 214, UNION STREET,

*April, 1874.*



A. VANS BEST, M.D. Aberdeen, M.R.C.S. London, 1856.

Second on list of Indian Medical Candidates, 1857, F.R.C.S., London (by examination), 1868.

Assistant-Surgeon to European General Hospital, Calcutta ; Surgeon, Bengal Army.

Late Secretary to the Health Section of the Social Science Association, Bengal.

Was specially selected by the Viceroy to accompany Lady Lawrence and suite *en route* to England.

Has served during the Indian Campaign with Naval Brigade, and China Campaign with Field Force, and in charge of Hospitals (Medal).

Received the thanks of the Principal Medical Officer, China Force, and of Major-General Haythorne, C.B., commanding at Hong-Kong, for devotion to duty and management of Hospitals at Hong-Kong Island, for eighteen months.

Twice received the thanks of General Sir Charles Van Straubenzee for conduct of Hospital, and expressly thanked for care of the women and children of the Force.

Placed in charge Brigade Staff, Canton, as additional duty.

Appointed to Medical Charge *European Depôt Hospital*, and *Female Hospital*, and Civil Station, Raneegunge, Bengal ; was in sole charge for nearly *three years*.

Subsequently employed on the Trans-Indus frontier with Cavalry Force.

Thanked in Orders for services during severe Cholera epidemic.

Thanked by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for papers relative to improving the condition of the Mercantile Marine.

Possesses personal and professional Certificates of very high character from many distinguished surgeons, many of whom he has acted for, and assisted professionally.

And has received the thanks of the Committee of Managing Governors of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, for care, kindness, and very efficient services.

Is obliged to relinquish the Indian Medical Service and his Calcutta Hospital Appointment from ill-health contracted abroad.

# TESTIMONIALS.

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## I.

FROM SECRETARY OF ROYAL WESTMINSTER  
OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, LONDON.

Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital,  
Charing Cross, 16th May, 1856.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Managing Governors of this Hospital to forward you the enclosed Copy of a Resolution, passed at a Meeting held on Thursday, the 1st day of May instant, conveying the thanks of the Committee (on your retirement from the Office of House Surgeon to this Institution) for the care and attention in the discharge of your duties, and your kindness to the patients placed under your care.

Permit me also to express to you my feeling of respect for your urbanity and kind bearing evinced towards me on all occasions, and my sincere wishes for your future success in your professional pursuits.

I have the honour to subscribe myself,  
Your very faithful Servant,

GEO. C. FARRANT,  
*Secretary.*

A. VANS BEST, Esq., M.D.

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*Extract of the Minutes of the Committee of Managing Governors, at a Meeting held on Thursday, 1st May, 1856.*

Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital,  
Charing Cross, May, 1856.

RESOLVED “That the thanks of the Committee of the Managing Governors be given to Mr. Alexander Vans Best, for his

"assiduity and zeal in the discharge of his duties as House  
"Surgeon to this Hospital, and for his unremitting attention to  
"the patients placed under his charge."

LEWIS POWELL,  
*Chairman.*

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## II.

FROM A. JARDINE LIZARS, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.,

*Professor of Anatomy in Marischal College, and one of the Surgeons  
of the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen.*

Marischal College, Aberdeen, 25th March, 1857.

I HEREBY certify that Dr. Alexander Vans Best has been a Pupil of mine for several years. I have always found him most kind and gentlemanly in his manners; and with regard to his attainments as an Anatomist, I have merely to state that in two successive years he carried, by competition, the first Honorary Certificates of my junior and senior classes. His knowledge of the other branches of the profession is attested by his having stood second at the Examination of the Honourable East India Company's Board.

A. JARDINE LIZARS.

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## III.

FROM W. PIRRIE, ESQ., M.D., F.R.S.E.,

*Professor of Surgery in the University of Aberdeen, Surgeon to Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, and Author of "Principles and Practice of Surgery."*

Aberdeen, 12th September, 1854.

I HEREBY certify that Mr. Best was the First Prize Student at the Surgery Class in Marischal College during last Winter

Session ; that he was my Clerk and Dresser in the Hospital for six months ; that I have had ample opportunities of marking Mr. Best and of forming an impression regarding him, and that I have a very high opinion of his talents and acquirements.

WILLIAM PIRRIE.

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IV.

FROM CHARLES G. GUTHRIE, ESQ.,

*Late Surgeon to Westminster Hospital and Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital.*

18, Pall Mall East, May 20, 1856.

MR. ALEXANDER VANS BEST was House Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital for nine months, and during that time gave the greatest satisfaction both to my late father and to myself. He assisted us both in many operations in private, not only in ophthalmic cases, but in general surgery. My father had a great regard for him, not only from his moral character, but from his great proficiency in his profession. I need hardly say I entertain the same feeling, and wish him every success in this world.

CHARLES G. GUTHRIE.

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V.

FROM HENRY HANCOCK, ESQ., F.R.C.S.,

*Senior Surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital, and Surgeon to Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital.*

37, Harley Street, 12th March, 1857.

I HAVE the greatest pleasure in stating the high estimation in which I hold Mr. Alexander Vans Best.

Mr. Best first came under my notice as House Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, when I had daily opportunities of admiring the zeal and talent with which he made himself master of the several diseases of the eye, and I believe few men are so thoroughly capable of treating those diseases as he is.

Mr. Best is a most honourable high-minded man, and an excellent practical Surgeon, so much so, that whilst in London I gladly availed myself of his assistance in my private practice, when called upon to perform any operation of importance.

I sincerely wish Mr. Best a successful career, as I know no man more deserving.

HENRY HANCOCK, F.R.C.S.

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## VI.

FROM EDWIN CANTON, ESQ., F.R.C.S.,

*Surgeon to the Charing Cross Hospital, Consulting Surgeon to the Kent Ophthalmic Hospital, Lecturer on Surgical Anatomy, and late Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary for Children.*

4, Montague Street, Russel Square.

HAVING for a long period been acquainted with Mr. A. Best, I have much pleasure in stating that I know him to be eminently qualified to discharge efficiently the duties of any office where Surgical and Medical knowledge are required. Mr. Best is intimately acquainted with the diseases of the eye, and the treatment they must be subjected to.

EDWIN CANTON, F.R.C.S.

## VII.

FROM JABEZ HOGG, ESQ.,

*Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Assistant-Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, Author of "The Microscope," "On the Ophthalmoscope," &c., &c.*

I HAVE great pleasure in bearing testimony to the very high opinion I have had occasion to form of the ability and character, and capacity for any Medical or Surgical duties which devolve upon my friend, Dr. A. Vans Best.

I can speak especially of his great care and skill in the management of the patients under his charge, during his residence at our Hospital—the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic—and of the excellent assistance rendered to myself in the investigation of the obscure forms of disease that from time to time presented more than usual difficulties. I most cordially wish him every and great success in his professional career.

JABEZ HOGG.

## VIII.

For Management of STANLEY HOSPITAL, HONG KONG.

*Extract from Letter of Principal Medical Officer, China Force, to the Director-General of Medical Depôt, Bengal.*

I HAVE the honour to request, on behalf of this most zealous and deserving Medical Officer, that you will be pleased to recommend him for the consideration of the Indian Government for a Staff Salary of 165 Rs. per mensem, in consideration of the very arduous and important duties he has been called upon to perform, and which he has carried out to my *entire satisfaction*.

I would earnestly recommend him to your favourable notice.

(Signed) R. DANE, M.D., D.I.G.H.,  
P.M.O., China Force.

Granted by Indian Government, Staff Salary, 200 Rs. per mensem.

## IX.

FROM COLONEL HAYTHORNE, C.B.,

*Commanding at Hong Kong, subsequently Adjutant-General  
H.M.'s Forces in India.*

MY DEAR DR. BEST,

I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the zeal and skill shewn by you while in charge of the detachments and European convalescents of various regiments at Stanley, Hong Kong ; and I trust that my acknowledgments of your services to those people, who were all more or less suffering from the effects of the deadly climate, may assist in obtaining any advancement for which you are so well qualified.

(Signed)

ED. HAYTHORNE,

*Major-General.*

## X.

CAMP HOSPITAL FOR CHOLERA, CALCUTTA.

EXTRACT OF ORDERS, 18th July.

THE Commanding Officer feels happy in placing upon record the indefatigable exertions of Asst.-Surg. Best when Cholera broke out in Camp in Calcutta in May last, and cannot allow Asst.-Surg. Best to leave the Regiment without conveying to him, thus publicly, his approbation and thanks for his unwearyed exertions in the cause of the sick, particularly where the cases required his constant attendance.

True copy.

R. H. DE MONTMORENCY,

*Lieut. and Adj't.*

## XI.

FROM CHRISTOPHER HEATH, ESQ., F.R.C.S.,

*Asst.-Surgeon to University College Hospital, London, and Teacher of Operative Surgery in University College, London.*

9, Cavendish Place, Cavendish Square, W.

I HAVE made the acquaintance of Dr. Alex. Vans Best since his return from India, and have had ample opportunity of ascertaining his knowledge of the profession. I have formed a very high opinion of Dr. Van Best's abilities and attainments, and feel confident that he must occupy a high position wherever he may be practising.

Dr. Best's large experience of Surgery in India renders him particularly eligible for an Hospital appointment in the country.

(Signed)      CHRIS. HEATH, F.R.C.S.,  
*Teacher of Operative Surgery,  
 University College, London.*

## XII.

FROM SIR J. RANALD MARTIN, C.B., F.R.S.,

*Inspector-General of Hospitals, President of Medical Board of Examiners,  
 &c., &c., &c.*

I HAVE much satisfaction in stating, upon my knowledge of Dr. A. Vans Best's character and claims of service, that I consider him to be eminently qualified for any professional function to which he may aspire. Indeed, his extended surgical experience in India would alone render him highly eligible for Hospital employment in this country.

37, Upper Brook Street, Cavendish Square,  
 November 25, 1869.

## XIII.

FROM HENRY HANCOCK, ESQ., F.R.C.S.,

*Surgeon, Charing Cross and Westminster Ophthalmic Hospitals.*

37, Harley Street, 12th March, 1870.

MY DEAR BEST,

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I pray you make what use of my former testimonial you please. You are still the same kind-hearted honourable fellow ; an equally skilful, but a much more experienced surgeon ; and I heartily wish you all success and happiness.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) HENRY HANCOCK.

A. VANS BEST, Esq., F.R.C.S.

## XIV.

FROM HENRY LEE, ESQ., F.R.C.S.,

*Surgeon, St. George's Hospital, London, formerly Surgeon to King's College Hospital, London, &c., &c., &c.*

DEAR DR. VANS BEST,

I am much pleased to hear that you are to practise in Aberdeen.

Your extensive acquaintance with disease, and long-continued practice, must ensure your success. Indeed, the position you have already obtained in your profession is the best guarantee for your future.

If health be given you, I hope to hear of you practising your profession for many years to come, both for the benefit of your patients and the advancement of science.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed)

HENRY LEE.

9, Saville Row, March 1870.

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XV.

FROM HENRY POWER, ESQ., F.R.C.S.,

*Surgeon to Westminster Ophthalmic and Maidstone Hospitals, Lecturer on Physiology, &c., &c., &c.*

45, Seymour Street, London, Feb. 11, 1869.

MY DEAR BEST,

It is with great pleasure I hear you are going down to the far north. There is a fine opening for you at Aberdeen, and with your abilities, sound knowledge of general surgery, and practical acquaintance with such a special branch as that of diseases of the eye, you ought to succeed.

The larger field of observation a man possesses the more is expected from him, and I trust soon to see some of the results of your work in both general and ophthalmic surgery.

Believe me always,

Very sincerely yours,

HENRY POWER.

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XVI.

FROM J. H. TANNER, M.D., F.L.S.,

*Author of "Practice of Medicine," "Diseases of Infancy and Childhood," "Signs and Diseases of Pregnancy," &c.*

9, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, W.,  
10th May, 1869.

It gives me great pleasure to express the high opinion I entertain of Dr. Vans Best's medical acquirements. I have met

him in consultation on three or four occasions, and have seen sufficient to convince me that Dr. Best has all the qualifications which lead to great success in practice. His opportunities for observing disease on a large scale, and under very serious conditions, have been unusually large ; and it is certain that he has most diligently availed himself of these opportunities.

Should Dr. Best become attached to any public institution, I am sure his brother officers will find in him a very talented and agreeable colleague.

J. H. TANNER, M.D., F.L.S.

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DR. BEST does not submit any Testimonial of his Calcutta charge, as it is not usual for the Surgeon of an Hospital in Calcutta to apply for one.

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*Note.*—Since commencing practice in Aberdeen, Dr. Best has contributed, among others, the following papers to Journals:—

“ On Radical cure of Hernia, new operation, successful, *Lancet*, March, 1871.”

“ On Disease of Antrum, with case of complete Excision of right Sup. Maxilla, *Lancet*, January, 1873.”

“ On Epidemic Hospitals,” referred to in *Lancet*, 3d Jan., 1872.

“ Practical remarks on securing Vessels,” “ On Hydrophobia and Rabies,” &c., &c.



